

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH: Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
SUBJECT: Organized Travel of Ethnic Groups

001c  
Orig. + 1 to DCI  
cc to DDCI  
10 Jul 1958

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Ethnic group travel from the United States to USSR and Soviet Bloc countries appears to be organized through a wide variety of agencies. Attached is a brief list by cities of such groups known to be travelling at the present time. While this list is not exhaustive, it is believed to be sufficiently inclusive to form a pattern.
3. It is evident from the list that there is no uniform procedure either in promoting, organizing or conducting such groups.

SIGNED: GEORGE G. CAREY

GEORGE G. CAREY  
Assistant Director for Operations

Enclosure  
List of Ethnic Group Travel

cc: DDCI  
DD/I ✓  
Assistant to the Director (Colonel Grogan)

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Ethnic Group Travel

Chicago

Polish Women's Alliance. Large group Polish women to travel throughout Poland, summer 1958. Tour designed by Orbis.

Polish National Alliance. Several tours for young people of Polish extraction to visit schools of higher learning. Organized through Orbis and developed by Alliance College, Pennsylvania.

Orbis is providing free transportation for parish priests who organize groups from their parishes for tours of Poland.

Several groups from Hammond and Gary, Indiana, are planning trips to Rumania in 1958. Rumanian government encouraging such travel of ethnic groups but grant visas only for groups.

Tony Weitsel, television commentator, organizes groups, not necessarily ethnic, for tours to various bloc countries from time to time.

Syracuse

Polish Report-Report Company, 211½ Lombard Street, Buffalo, Helen Polickisnev, has tour in Poland now and has two others planned in mid-July and in August. All arrangements through KLM.

Stanley Jasinski, announcer for WKBW, Buffalo, took an organized group to Poland, May 1958. Arrangements through KLM.

Alois Lasewski, a former officer of Polish Everybody's Daily, is engaged in arranging tours to Poland.

Tours to Czechoslovakia and Rumania from the Buffalo area are organized in Toronto.

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New York

Polonice International (Jan S. Pargiello) arranges for 50% of travel, both by individuals and groups in New York area.

Walter Twardowski, 18 St. Mark's Place, New York, arranges minor amount ethnic Polish travel.

American Express Company, Cosmos Travel Bureau, General Tours, Inc., all arrange Polish tours.

Tatra Slovak Travel Bureau, Cosmos Travel Bureau, Brodsky and Sovak, Inc., General Travel Services (owned by former Czech national), all handle travel to Czechoslovakia from New York area. Tours are organized in ethnic community publications. These bureaus specialize in servicing visits of former Czech nationals.

In smaller communities groups of over 50 are believed to have arranged travel by chartered plane to Czechoslovakia. Arrangements made either directly with airline or through a local travel agency which does not specialize in this kind of travel.

Detroit

Michael Potenas, Royal Oak, Michigan, has organized four groups to Rumania. Two left in May, two in June, and another this week. All are locally organized.

Lowy Travel Service, 11207 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, has a group of Hungarians near Kosice, Czechoslovakia.

Fred Hlub Real Estate and Travel Service, 12711 Miles Avenue, Cleveland, has a group of Czechs in Czechoslovakia.

E. P. Radich Travel Bureau, 1899 West 25th Street, Cleveland, is arranging for another group to go to Czechoslovakia.

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Khiola Insurance Agency, 3690 East 65th Street, Cleveland,  
arranged for a group to visit Poland late in June 1958.

Pittsburgh:

Allegheny Travel Service, Frick Building, Pittsburgh. Scheduled  
four semi-escorted tours to Poland in 1958. All organized locally  
and under escort of Thaddeus T. Beczak, owner. Participants mostly  
of Polish extraction. Arrangements in Poland by Orbis. Tours pro-  
vide one week of escorted travel plus two to three weeks of independent  
travel.

Boston

A group of 30 Albanian Americans will return in the near future  
from a month's visit to Albania sponsored by an Albanian organiza-  
tion known as Likia.

We have learned of a tour of some thirty persons of Armenian  
extraction about to leave Boston on a tour of Soviet Armenia. Or-  
ganisation appears to be sub rosa, but pushed by the Armenian Pro-  
gressive which unquestionably had the blessing of the Soviet Embassy.  
A similar Armenian tour is reported being arranged in Los Angeles  
and possibly elsewhere. Organising apparatus unknown. Our source  
remarks some of the Armenians are old enough to know better.

St. Louis

Peter Travel Agency, run by William Peter, Omaha, Nebraska,  
sent a group of approximately 40 Czechs to Czechoslovakia in June  
1958 for a one month trip. Group organized through advertisement  
placed in Omaha newspapers by William Peter.

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Tom Martin Terry, Lawrence, Kansas, organizes tours, not necessarily of ethnic groups, to USSR and various bloc countries.

Los Angeles

Armenian Orthodox Church, Fresno, arranged for a tour in 1957 through Thos. Cook and Sons, Pasadena.

Two groups visited Poland this year; they travelled as a group but were not under the sponsorship of any organization - apparently locally organized and conducted.